

mitted unconditionally to the sessions of both Houses, This was intended to win to the Republican party the press which, except in New England, had been alienated from the Federalists by the Sedition Act. The Judiciary Act of the preceding session, by which the scope of the Federal courts had been extended and sixteen circuits had been established, was repealed, and a bill passed establishing six districts instead. The naturalization laws which had prevailed in Washington's time were restored. The internal taxes were abolished and measures were begun looking" toward the gradual dismissal of the officials connected with them. The army was reduced to three thousand men and the appropriation for the navy was made very small. In short, the legislative and executive departments were as completely one as Republican taunts had represented them to be under Adams. Many of the members of both Houses were in close personal touch with Jefferson; and there was, as yet, no dissatisfaction with the autocratic power he exerted over his party.

Before Congress adjourned in May, intelligence had reached the United States which diverted the attention of the President from purely domestic affairs, and suggested to him a line of foreign policy different from that hitherto pursued. News came that Spain had ceded Louisiana and Florida back to France. Jefferson saw that his opportunity had come to set about securing control of the Mississippi River—a dream cherished from the time of his residence in France. Madison was at once directed to draw up for Livingston, the American Minister in Paris, instructions based upon a full statement of the economic and political results which must come from the retrocession of Louisiana.* His instructions covered the securing by the United States of just and permanent rights of navigation on the Mississippi and the right of deposit near its mouth. The acquirement of the island of New Orleans was urged. Jefferson himself added a letter, whose threatening tone differentiated it from the cautious one of Madison. Livingston was to press the

*See Louisiana, page 298.